

THE POLYNESIAN.

Editorial Correspondence.

LAHAINA, MAUI,
July 16, 1846.

My last was from a certain foggy peak somewhere on an unexplored route, to the "House of the Sun," as the mountain is called, on whose side we had encamped. Judging from the vapory condition of the atmosphere about us, King Sol spent most of his time in the garret. Before I was through my last epistle, the fog had become mist, and the mist rain, and down it came in torrents, as if our warm friend above had kicked over his wash-bucket with the special design of giving us a water privilege. The muddy fountains filled up, the ravines poured forth streams, and all about us looked rather wet. The only thing where enjoyment seemed not at all dampened by the floods about, above and beneath us, was my rheumatism, which began capering over my recumbent system as if it were out on a spree altogether of its own. I looked to my lady-friend to see if there was any relenting in her determination for a mountain residence under such an outpouring. But no. She read and chatted with the utmost nonchalance, just as if there was nothing wet in water, and as if her tent was as dry as Lahaina itself. The very birds had ceased singing, but the children were merrier than ever. So much thought I for living in a climate where it never rains. This is, no doubt, a delightful change for them; but in Nuuanu we occasionally know what rain is. There might be health and fun in it if one had sufficient faith. Unfortunately mine was altogether wanting. However we had a merry supper, and the moon rose cold as an iceberg and clear as a crystal. In the morning appearances very much as if old Sol was intending another wash, and I ventured to inquire "when my kind host proposed decamping?" "When we can go down in a canoe." Twinge went my bones again, and I determined (shall I confess my unfrogishness) to slope. I own I felt rather small, after having got so high, in such delightful society, to desert it for no better reason than not being water-proof or web-footed. But so it was; and I was down the mountain none too soon, for down again came the rain in a shape which showed that the work of the day previous was but play to it.

The remainder of that day and night were spent at Mr. Torbert's plantation. I should have before said that he has connected with him as partner an enterprising Nantucketer, of the name of Macey, and their joint hospitality makes strangers feel very much at home. As yet their buildings are rude and lands not wholly under cultivation. But whatever skill and enterprise can do will be shown here. One hundred and thirty acres of sugar cane, averaging about one ton of sugar to the acre, are now under cultivation. A portion of this being government cane is very indifferently cared for, choked with weeds and drying up, although fit for grinding. Another portion was in better order—but the native system of agriculture is careless in the extreme. One native immediately in this vicinity seemed to possess some skill and industry in this respect. If it were not for white labor, the potatoe region would soon lose its good repute. When properly cultivated it is said to yield eighty barrels per acre. The seed should be renewed annually, but the natives plant but once, and do not renew until they have entirely run out. The potatoes, in consequence, rapidly degenerate, and are now, to a great extent, small and watery.

The next day I took the inland road to Makawao. Pleasant enough it was for the first half-dozen miles, over a hilly country, along the side of the mountain, at an elevation of from three thousand to four thousand feet. The view downward was pleasing—beneath one's feet lay unnumbered strawberries, but I had eaten too many the day before to feel the slightest inclination then to pluck and eat. Copses, ravines, plantations and native hamlets afforded a sufficient variety for the eye, while my heel had enough to do in the way of exercising its spur on my steed's flank, by the steady application of which, at the rate of three kicks to a minute, I was enabled to reach Makawao, a distance of twenty miles, in seven hours—a speed which I venture to say has never been eclipsed on that road, and will never be rivalled by myself, at least, again. Travellers on Maui—one and all, I give ye caution—beware of a tall, black steed, with a white spot on one of his legs—or on all, I forget which. He is a tall animal to look at—but very stationary on the go, and if you should happen to look under the saddle before you start, which in my verdancy I forgot, you will be likely to find a reason for his predilection for rest. Imprimis, never hire a horse without first looking at his buck, then at his legs, and lastly see if he knows enough to eat. If he does not you may rest assured that he is a melancholy animal, too much lost in his own unhappy reminiscences to feel any enthusiasm in taking you over a mountain, though it should lead to the best pasture in the world. Thus I found it, and found him even on the creep, a little too hard even for a dyspeptic, and my benevolence prompts me to give my experience for the benefit of all future valetudinarians. I gave the beast a few days rest, and then it took two boys as many days to lead him back to Lahaina, a distance of thirty miles. If the sporting calender can furnish the best of this, let us know it.

Makawao affords a delightful range of country, with a corresponding climate. Hill and dale, woodland and pasture-land, ocean and mountain, each in their most pleasing aspect, are here combined to form one picturesque whole. This and the adjoining districts are unlike any other scenery I have met with on the islands. Fields, groves and wooded knolls, interspersed with shady ravines, luxuriantly verdant from the wash of the rich, surrounding soil, are scattered from the sea-shore far up the mountain to where the denser belt of woods commences and the ascent becomes more abrupt. At this season the mountain to the very crest of the crater looked green and tempting. Its slope is seemingly so gentle that it invites ascent, and numerous are the spots on its wide-spread sides that the eye can select as apparently all that a tourist could desire for breathing places, whence to feast his senses upon the luxuriance and beauty of nature beneath and around him, while they might well ache at the aspect of the rocky and sterile solitude above. On a clear morning at daybreak, the ruin of this mountain, towering as it does 10,000 feet into the skies, breasting the translucent atmosphere in an outline at once distinct and yet blending itself with it as a ship on the ocean horizon, is singularly beautiful. Nor is the beauty diminished when the rays of the sun, intermingled with fleecy clouds, alternately gild and shadow its rocky tarsi, mocking the eyes with changing hues; anon these disappear before heavy rain-gusts, driven by fleet winds, and sweeping down the sides momentarily dash a colder and sterner aspect over the scenery. Haleakala, as seen from its western base, has none of Alpine grandeur. It has, however, a calm and attractive repose, arising from its vast extent, symmetrical proportions and fertile declivities. It looks fat, easy, and trustworthy. One may take up his lodgings anywhere on its ample proportions, although this sustains the largest crater on the globe, some thirty miles in circumference, with no fear of spiteful bursts of liquid rock chasing one to a horrible death, or showers of ashes, clouds of smoke or gusts of steam, to bury, stifle and boil one as might be. Its showers, as I have reason to know, are all cold, limpid water, though sometimes in winter months it spreads a snowy sheet for a short distance down, to tantalize the sun-burnt dwellers on the parched plains beneath, with the idea of coolness.

Makawao is more than sufficiently watered by rain, but the soil is too porous to allow of streams. Bathing spots, such as they are as to extent, are to be found among the rocky beds of some of the ravines. The drinking water is most lusciously cool and limpid. As to the temperature, nothing can be more refreshing to an enervated constitution. At times, during the winter, a fire is comfortable, though the thermometer rarely if ever sinks below 49°. The morning and evenings are bracing, and at noon, even with a bright sun, I found exercise not at all heating. A fair day here is the very acme of atmospherical delight and may well defy competition with any climate this side of Paradise. But after all that is said, it rains too much to suit every taste. However it might form a good speculation should some enterprising, experienced Boniface establish a good hotel, say about 4000 feet up the mountain, in one of the picturesque groves that there abound. Residents from Honolulu and other sun-parched towns would doubtless be glad of such a retreat to spend a few weeks or months of every summer, when they could feast upon strawberries and cream, gloat their eyes on the home-like wheat fields, eat of Hawaiian bread, and enjoy air and exercise and any temperature down to congelation, at their option. The roads are excellent in several directions both for carriages and horses for many miles. There may be good fishing at the beach and gunning among the hills for aught I know. At all events there are attractions enough without these murderous sports. The best of butter, cream and milk, and abundance of fresh vegetables, with a tolerable supply of fruit, would not be among the least. It is a capital place for a real New England farm, and with care I have not a doubt that many New England fruits would come to perfection. At present, beside the patches of the natives who cultivate this region tolerably extensively, Mr. McLane's is the only plantation. It occupies a most delightful situation. His house—and a real Yankeeified look it has, with its red sides and porticoed front, stands in the midst of a koa grove. Plants bloom in careless profusion about it; the rose bushes grow most luxuriantly, forming hedges crowned the year round with their rich flowers, filling the air with fragrance; geraniums rival them in numbers and sweetness; well kept fields of cane extend in front of the house over 100 acres; fences enclose it in part and separate it from verdant pasture ground; corn and pumpkins have their allotted space; clumps of trees here and there resemble orchards; nothing, in short, is wanting but the real apples, pears, peaches and plums themselves to render the coup d'oeil as gratifying to the palate as to the eye. Perhaps these will appear in time.

McLane's sugar mill is about a half-mile below his house. The sugar of this region ripens the same as at Mr. Torbert's place and is of excellent quality. The produce to the acre is about one ton. At present the mill is worked by animal power, but Mr. McLane proposes erecting a wind-mill as more economical.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

THE POLYNESIAN.

HONOLULU, SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1846.

Restoration Day, 31st July—opening of the Legislative Assembly—Royal Speech—Reply of the Nobles and Representatives in Legislative Council Assembled to His Majesty's Speech.

According to previous announcement, the Legislative Body assembled yesterday in the booth prepared far that purpose within the palace enclosure. The inside was filled by a numerous audience, composed of the foreign diplomatic corps and their families, the officers of government, foreign residents and public generally. A large concourse of people were assembled outside to witness the passage of the royal cortege from the palace to the booth. At 12 o'clock precisely His Majesty, accompanied by his ministers and the young chiefs, entered the house under a salute from the batteries and roll of drums from the military. His Majesty, on this occasion, wore a military suit, over which was thrown the beautiful feather cloak which has been so often described and admired. The young chiefs wore rich feather capes over their shoulders and held aloft the royal Kahilis. After a short pause and a prayer by Mr. Wm. Richards, His Majesty bidding the audience be seated, read in a distinct voice

The Royal Speech.

NOBLES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE:

I have recalled you to resume the labors imposed upon you by the Constitution.

In consequence of the unusual duration of your last session, and the great amount of important business transacted by you at that term, you have been reassembled later than the usual period of your convention.

I have commanded the Minister of the Interior to report to you the internal affairs of the Islands.

I am happy to congratulate you on the preservation of the peace and order of society, and the failure of all efforts to excite discontent and commotion.

I have received the most friendly assurances from the President of the United States, whose relations to these Islands have been and continue to be so important to the advancement of the temporal and spiritual interests of my subjects.

My Commissioner in London has repeatedly received the strongest assurances of the interest taken by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in the independence and prosperity of my kingdom.

My relations with France continue of the most friendly and satisfactory kind.

With all other nations what intercourse exists is of peace and good will.

I have commanded my Minister of Foreign Relations to lay before you a particular report of the affairs of his Department.

The finances of the country have improved under the rigid economy adopted with a view to pay off all the pre-existing debts, and establishing public credit on a basis not to be shaken.

I have commanded the Minister of that Department to lay before you his report since the first of April 1845, up the same date the present year.

In execution of the laws creating a Department of Public Instruction, I have appointed as Minister of that Department, Mr. William Richards, who is well acquainted with the subject and has already served me with zeal both on these Islands and in foreign countries. I have commanded him to lay before you a report upon all the important subjects embraced in his Department.

The administration of the laws during the last year has been rendered difficult by opposition to the jurisdiction of my tribunals and the assertion of rights and privileges incompatible with the respect due to my authority from all who live under it. I confide in the good will of this community and in the Representatives of foreign nations to discountenance, by their advice and influence, all such seditious pretensions of their compatriots. I have commanded my Attorney General to report to you on this subject.

It is my desire that the tribunals should be rendered equal to the prompt and just decision of all questions arising within my jurisdiction. But in cases of great delicacy or difficulty arising between foreigners, I intend to reserve to myself the right of taking counsel abroad whenever I consider it expedient.

I recommend to you to watch the operation of the new laws, framed for the protection and good of all, but doubtless capable of improvement. You will listen to the

public voice, and alter, modify or repeal, as the interests of my faithful subjects shall require.

I trust that the labors of the Land Commissioners will result in rendering the titles to land clear and fixed, and thus lay a foundation for agricultural enterprise. It is my special wish that the laws be such as to offer the most efficient encouragement to profitable industry. I recommend to your consideration the best means of securing that object.

It will be your duty to consider the operation of the labor tax, and to decide whether the schools can be supported by any other means, in a more economical manner, or by any method more satisfactory to the people.

Finally, I recommend to you the most careful attention to every thing that can promote the morality, health, happiness and wealth of my native subjects, and every thing that can consistently with their welfare render the Islands a desirable home for those friendly foreigners who are content to live under my laws and to trust their fortunes to their protection and to their own honest industry.

May the Almighty enlighten your councils and guide you in the path of truth and justice, and may all that you say or do redound to His glory, and the best interests of my people.

Mr. Li, on the part of the Nobles, made some eloquent remarks, which pleased all by the natural ease of the orator, and gratified those to whom his language was intelligible. A committee of both houses was appointed to draft an immediate reply to the Royal Speech. Notice was then given that the Reports of the Ministers for the past year would be read in Hawaiian to the Legislative Assembly at 10 o'clock to-day. The public were invited to hear them. After a few minor details of business, the King arose and left the booth as he entered. The audience then dispersed.

The following is the REPLY OF THE NOBLES AND REPRESENTATIVES TO THE KING'S SPEECH:

Reply of the Nobles and Representatives.

[TRANSLATION.]

SIRE:

As a special deputation from the Nobles and Representatives, we approach your Majesty with the assurances of our love, loyalty and gratitude for the gracious speech which has been addressed to us.

We hope that our labors during our last session will redound to the honor of the kingdom, the special benefit of your subjects and the good of all who live under your Majesty's authority. We shall ever esteem it our most sacred duty to co-operate with your Majesty in the most energetic measures to suppress commotion and to quiet discontent.

We rejoice at the improved state of the finances of the country, well convinced that the stability and energy of government must depend in no inconsiderable degree on the state of the financial department.

Believing that the adaptation of your Majesty's government to the wants of the people, and that the respect which it has secured abroad are the natural results of education, we shall esteem it our duty to foster that department with fidelity and perseverance.

We have seen with deep regret the embarrassments of your Majesty's judicial tribunals, and shall do all in our power to aid your Majesty in securing for them that obedience, respect and confidence which the decisions of foreign cabinets testify they deserve, and without which courts of justice must be a judicial farce.

As we act only for the good of the people, we shall watch the operation of the laws enacted by us, and shall listen to the voice and guard the interests of the people, as acting under the responsibility of the most solemn obligations.

To encourage agriculture so as to increase the amount of exportable products, will be a desideratum. The way being already prepared to secure allodial titles to the soil, and a profitable market being already open to its products, and persons possessing those titles being wholly freed from all personal service, we trust that industry will not only increase but become more and more productive and profitable.

The labor tax, so far as it remains, being devoted to the support of schools and always being commutable for money at the lowest rate, it must be submitted to the voice of the people whether that tax be continued, or the schools be supported in some other form.

In all the laws we enact, and in all the measures we adopt, we shall act with an unwavering view to promote the morality, health, happiness and wealth of your Majesty's subjects. We shall also do all in our power to render these Islands an agreeable resting place and home for worthy foreigners from friendly nations whence we have derived our civilization as a people, our respectability as a government, our religion as a Christian nation and our prospects of future wealth.

Your maxims of government are known to be those of universal peace, justice and good will to all mankind. These maxims will become a kingdom founded permanently upon the cross of Christ; resting on that Rock of Ages, your kingdom will stand respected and unmoved in the hostile collisions of nations, and on that Rock we reverently pray the God of the universe to establish your throne.

COUNCIL HOUSE, July 31st, 1846.

(Signed)

A. PAKI,

T. KAPENO,

Z. P. KAUMAEA.

Committee of the Nobles and Representatives of the Hawaiian Islands.

THE 31ST JULY.—The proceedings of yesterday in the opening of the Legislative Body, by a speech from the throne, although orderly and interesting.